

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

Justices					
Confidence Score	Strong Democrat	Strong Republican	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Mild Republican
Opinion Partners	✓		✓		
Dissenting Minority	✓		✓		
Determining Majority		✓		✓	✓
Lone Dissenter	✓				

- ▶ Number of justices: **5**
- ▶ Number of cases: **899**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **91.5% (823)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Tim Armstead (25)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **794**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **6**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Tim Armstead (5)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **23**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Margaret Workman (7)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners/Dissenting minority

In 2020 the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia decided 20 opinions by split decision. Justices Hutchinson and Workman were **opinion partners** in ten of those cases. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Hutchinson recorded a Mild Republican Confidence score and Justice Workman recorded a Strong Democratic Confidence Score.

Determining Majority

Justice Walker was in the majority 19 times in cases decided by split decision

which was more often than any other justice on the court. Justices Armstead, Jenkins, and Walker were in the majority in 10 cases decided by split decision. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Armstead recorded a Strong Republican Confidence score, Justice Jenkins recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score, and Justice Walker recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score.

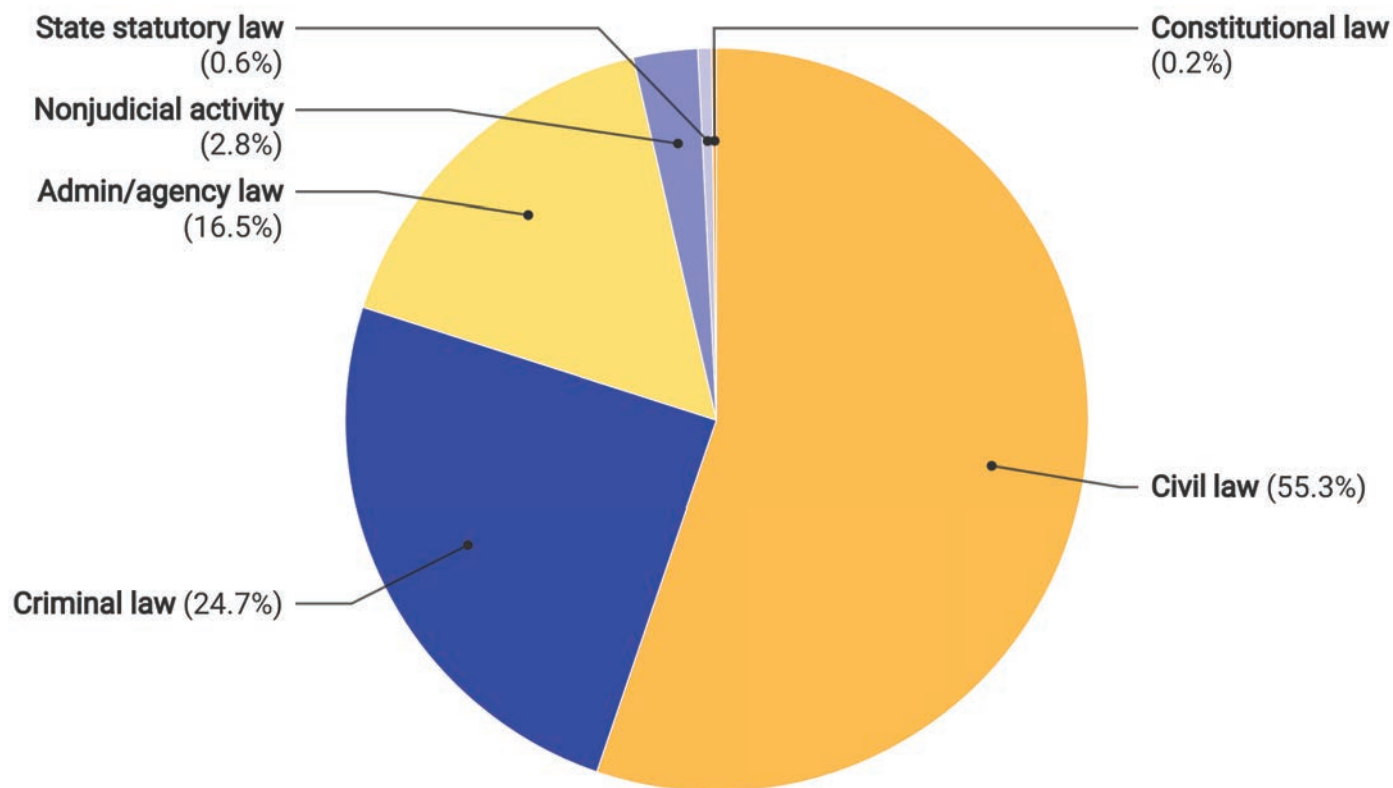
Lone dissenter

In 2020 there was a lone dissenter in 44 cases before the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia. Justice Workman was a lone dissenter in 31 of those cases

COURT JURISDICTION

The court has original jurisdiction on matters of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, and certiorari. The court also interprets the law and the state constitution.

Case types decided by Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common cases heard by the West Virginia Supreme Court in 2020 were civil law. Of the 899 cases it heard, 497 were civil cases, or 55.3 percent of its

total caseload for the year. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were criminal law cases. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort. The West Virginia Supreme Court heard 222 criminal cases in 2020, or 24.7 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were admin/agency law cases. An admin/agency law case first proceeds from an administrative law court or involves the enforcement of an administrative regulation. The West Virginia Supreme Court heard 148 admin/agency cases in 2020, or 16.5 percent of its total caseload for the year.